



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

5th Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 50

Thursday, May 30, 2019

Pages 3410 – 3456

Iqaluit

Speaker: The Honourable Simeon Mikkungwak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak
(Baker Lake)

Hon. David Akeegok
(Quttiktuq)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation*

Tony Akoak
(Gjoa Haven)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Pat Angnakak
(Iqaluit-Niaqunnguu)

Hon. Jeannie Ehaloak
(Cambridge Bay)

*Minister of Justice; Minister responsible for
Labour; Minister responsible for the Qulliq
Energy Corporation*

Hon. George Hickes
(Iqaluit-Tasiluk)

*Minister of Finance, Chair of the Financial
Management Board; Minister of Health;
Minister responsible for Suicide Prevention;
Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety
and Compensation Commission*

Hon. David Joanasic
(South Baffin)

*Minister of Culture and Heritage; Minister of
Education; Minister of Languages*

Joelie Kaernerik
(Amittuq)

Mila Kamingoak
(Kugluktuk)

Pauloosie Keyootak
(Uqqummiut)

Hon. Lorne Kusugak
(Rankin Inlet South)
*Minister of Community and
Government Services; Minister
of Human Resources*

Adam Lightstone
(Iqaluit-Manirajak)

John Main
(Arviat North-Whale Cove)

Margaret Nakashuk
(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Patterk Netser
(Aivilik)
*Minister responsible for
Nunavut Arctic College;
Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation*

Emiliano Qirngnuq
(Netsilik)

Paul Quassa
(Aggu)

Allan Rumbolt
(Hudson Bay)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Joe Savikataaq
(Arviat South)
*Premier; Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of
Energy; Minister of Environment; Minister
responsible for Aboriginal Affairs;
Minister responsible for Seniors; Minister
responsible for the Utility Rates Review
Council*

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik
(Iqaluit-Sinaa)
*Government House Leader; Minister of
Family Services; Minister responsible for
Homelessness; Minister responsible for
Immigration; Minister responsible for the
Status of Women*

Cathy Towtongie
(Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Clerk Assistant
Stephen Innuksuk

Law Clerk
Michael Chandler

Sergeant-at-Arms
Charlie Audlakiak

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	3410
Ministers' Statements	3410
Members' Statements	3415
Oral Questions.....	3424
Written Questions.....	3450
Tabling of Documents	3453
Second Reading of Bills.....	3454
Orders of the Day	3456

A.

Daily References

Thursday, May 30, 2019.....3410

B.

Ministers' Statements

225 – 5(2): Isuma and Artcircq Representing Nunavut at the Venice Biennale (Akeeagok)3410
226 – 5(2): Gun Cabinets Included in Fiveplex Design (Netser)3410
227 – 5(2): Changes to the GN Staff Housing Program/Policy (Kusugak).....3411
228 – 5(2): StepWise Child Abuse Investigation Training (Sheutiapik).....3412
229 – 5(2): 10-Year Educator Retention and Recruitment Strategy (Joanasie)3413
230 – 5(2): Inuit Youth Attend Nunavut Health Careers Camp (Hickes)3414
231 – 5(2): Shared Directional Statement for Policing (Akeeagok).....3414

C.

Members' Statements

348 – 5(2): Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (Lightstone)3415
349 – 5(2): Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (Angnakak)3416
350 – 5(2): Congratulations to Kugluktuk Residents (Kamingoak).....3417
351 – 5(2): Congratulations to Sanikiluaq's 2019 High School Graduates (Rumbolt).....3417
352 – 5(2): Medical Travellers Bringing Alcohol to Communities (Keyootak)3418
353 – 5(2): 2019 Post-secondary Successes for Pangnirtung Residents (Nakashuk).....3419
354 – 5(2): Addressing Homelessness (Towtongie).....3419
355 – 5(2): Police Services (Qirngnuq).....3420
356 – 5(2): Recognizing Isuma and Artcircq of Igloolik (Quassa).....3421
357 – 5(2): Happy Seventh Birthday to Granddaughter (Akoak).....3422
358 – 5(2): Lack of Daycare Space in Arviat (Main).....3422
359 – 5(2): Mould Issues in Public Housing (Kaernerker).....3423

D.

Oral Questions

475 – 5(2): Services for Elders at Embassy West (Nakashuk).....	3424
476 – 5(2): Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Illness (Towtongie)	3426
477 – 5(2): Medical Travellers Bringing Alcohol Back to Communities (Keyootak)	3428
478 – 5(2): Police Services (Qirngnuq).....	3430
479 – 5(2): Wheelchair Accessibility across Nunavut (Kamingoak)	3431
480 – 5(2): Working with Local Hamlets (Quassa)	3432
481 – 5(2): Addressing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (Lightstone)	3435
482 – 5(2): Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (Angnakak)	3436
483 – 5(2): Mine Training (Main).....	3438
484 – 5(2): Tourism (Akoak)	3439
485 – 5(2): Undersea Fibre Optic Cable Project (Rumbolt).....	3441
486 – 5(2): Mould Management Plan (Kaernek)	3442
487 – 5(2): Medevac Services (Kamingoak).....	3443
488 – 5(2): Relief Employees (Angnakak).....	3444
489 – 5(2): Country Food at Embassy West (Towtongie).....	3446
490 – 5(2): Income Assistance Appeal Process (Main)	3447
491 – 5(2): Issues with Elder Care (Quassa)	3448

E.

Written Questions

032 – 5(2): FASD in the Education System (Lightstone)	3450
033 – 5(2): Ensuring Nunavut’s Future Professionals are FASD Informed (Lightstone).....	3452

F.

Tabling of Documents

165 – 5(2): 2017 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report (Akeegok)3453
166 – 5(2): 2018 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report (Akeegok)3453
167 – 5(2): 2019-2020 Letter of Expectation for Executive Council of Nunavut (Savikataaq).3454
168 – 5(2): Letter from Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College (Rumbolt).....3454

G.

Motions

036 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period (Rumbolt).....3441

H.

Bills

Bill 24 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019 – Second Reading3454
Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Second Reading.....3455
Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act – Second Reading3455

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, May 30, 2019

Members Present:

Hon. David Akeegok, Mr. Tony Akoak,
Ms. Pat Angnakak, Hon. George Hickes,
Hon. David Joanase, Mr. Joeline
Kaernerck, Ms. Mila Kamingoak, Mr.
Pauloosie Keyootak, Hon. Lorne
Kusugak, Mr. Adam Lightstone, Mr.
John Main, Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak,
Ms. Margaret Nakashuk, Hon. Patterk
Netser, Mr. Emiliano Qirngnuq, Mr.
Paul Quassa, Mr. Allan Rumbolt, Hon.
Joe Savikataaq, Hon. Elisapee
Sheutiapik, Ms. Cathy Towtongie.

>>*House commenced at 13:30*

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Simeon Mikkungwak)
(interpretation): Can you say the opening
prayer, please, Mr. Quassa.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you
very much, Mr. Quassa. Nunavummiut
who are watching and listening to the
proceedings, your MLAs of Nunavut
will now begin their work.

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2.
Ministers' Statements. Minister of
Economic Development and
Transportation, Minister Akeegok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 225 – 5(2):
Isuma and Arctiq Representing
Nunavut at the Venice Biennale**

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation):
I say “good day” to the people of Grise
Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Arctic Bay.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to
congratulate Isuma, Arctiq, and other
performers and artists from Nunavut for
promoting the Inuit culture at the Venice
Biennale.

The Igloolik-based artist collective and
circus went to the most important
contemporary visual art exhibitions in
the world. Isuma showed many of its
films and television series at the
Canadian Pavilion. It also broadcast live
from the floe edge near Igloolik into the
pavilion. Arctiq amazed audiences with
its performances.

Nunavut has grown into a globally
recognized jurisdiction, and our culture,
innovations, traditions, and values
continue to intrigue and impact people
around the world. It's amazing the
international attention the Inuit culture is
getting. My department supports this
through its funding.

We look forward to continuing to
diversify and improve economic
opportunities to encourage self-reliance
and provide local employment through
the arts and culture and traditional
industries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers'
Statements. Minister responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister
Netser.

**Minister's Statement 226 – 5(2): Gun
Cabinets Included in Fiveplex
Design**

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation):
Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say “good
afternoon” to my constituents in Coral

Harbour and Naujaat. Have a good day. It's now spring and the weather is getting warmer. It's great to wake up to such a beautiful scene.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, food security and housing are elements of *Inuusivut* – self-reliance. Mr. Speaker, we recognized this when we drafted *Turaaqtavut*.

There may be no better form of self-reliance than that of our hunters on the land, but when they return, they need a safe space to store their firearms. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the housing corporation recognizes this and wants to help. This is why the units in the 2019 fiveplex builds will include gun cabinets.

Mr. Speaker, we often talk about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* principles and *Turaaqtavut*. Since Nunavut was created, we have always said that we must carefully follow *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. We must always be mindful we do not celebrate them with words. We must integrate them into our lives in a meaningful way.

(interpretation ends) The blueprint for action calls for the housing corporation to incorporate IQ principles, which we are doing, in its designs on our housing portfolio. This is in keeping within that goal. If we hold to our principles and follow them in ways both big and small, they will thrive. Having a safe space to store firearms is part of *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* – caring for people.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I remember back when I was a child, our homes were full of rifles in the porch, but today we live in a different setting and we have to properly care for firearms.

(interpretation ends) Without it, people might feel less comfortable with firearms in their home. Having a gun cabinet removes one less obstacle to food security and one step closer to tradition. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

**Minister's Statement 227 – 5(2):
Changes to the GN Staff Housing
Program/Policy**

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide an update to my colleagues on the changes to the GN Staff Housing Program. The Department of Finance, the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and the Department of Human Resources have been working together to review and update the GN Staff Housing Program using a phased approach. Significant progress has been made and the first phase is now completed.

Mr. Speaker, the most significant change in this phase was moving the control and administration of the policy from the Nunavut Housing Corporation to the Department of Human Resources. The policy has been broken into two separate documents: the GN Staff Housing Policy and the GN Staff Housing Procedures Manual. While the policy itself will be administered by the Department of Human Resources, the procedures

manual will be jointly administered by the Department of Human Resources and the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Other changes include:

- Making the Staff Housing Allocation Committee at the assistant deputy minister level and including all departments in the allocation committee;
- Chair of both allocation and appeals committees changed from the Nunavut Housing Corporation to the Department of Human Resources;
- Increased flexibility added to job category prioritization in housing allocation to allow deputy ministers to provide an additional ranking of their positions to support strategic direction and Inuit employment goals; and
- Addition of formal guidelines related to shared staff housing.

These changes will streamline the staff housing allocation process, leading to units being allocated strategically and quickly.

We look forward to bringing further improvements on the Staff Housing Program to the legislature as the next phases get completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Minister's Statement 228 – 5(2): StepWise Child Abuse Investigation Training

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my department recognizes the importance of training its frontline staff to recognize and respond effectively to child sexual abuse. As such, I am pleased to report on the recent specialized training that took place in Iqaluit from April 29 to May 3, 2019.

Uqaqtitsijii, 31 participants from across Nunavut took part in the StepWise 360: Conducting Child Abuse Investigations training. The training was developed and coordinated by The Forensic Practice and included Nunavut-specific elements, such as a performance by Susan Aglukark. A number of key stakeholders participated in the training, including the departments of Health, Education, Justice, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

Uqaqtitsijii, the StepWise training is mandatory for frontline community social services workers to equip them with the skills to respond appropriately and safely to instances of child sexual abuse.

Uqaqtitsijii, in addition to this, my department is establishing in-house trainers, community social services workers who will be skilled and effective in forensic interviewing, who can facilitate future training with staff. Staff from all regions have been designated to become in-house-trainers, and this training will take place in July 2019.

Uqaqtitsijii, my department remains committed to ensuring its staff are properly trained to respond effectively to child sexual abuse. Equipping staff with these skills is imperative to support the health and safety of Nunavut's children and families. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Minister's Statement 229 – 5(2): 10-Year Educator Retention and Recruitment Strategy

Hon. David Joanasié (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, Nunavummiut, members, and the people of Kimmirut and Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, retaining and recruiting educators to Nunavut is an ongoing challenge that our government remains committed to address. At the end of each school year the Department of Education must fill vacancies before the next school year starts.

Mr. Speaker, to reduce the number of these departures and vacancies by educators, my department recognizes the need to develop an effective, proactive, long-term solution. This is why my department is developing a ten-year educator retention and recruitment strategy.

First, it will concentrate on the longer term sustainable development of Inuit and Inuktitut-speaking educators, particularly through Nunavut Arctic College's Nunavut Teacher Education

Program. This will help my department meet the requirements outlined in Article 23 of the *Nunavut Agreement* while also fulfilling the need for bilingual education as stated in *Turaaqtavut*.

(interpretation ends) Second, a sustainable retention plan will be developed to support current and future Nunavut educators in teaching roles while also significantly reducing the number of annual departures. In particular my department wants to make sure that current and future Inuit and Inuktitut-speaking educators remain employed in Nunavut's education system for many years to come.

Third, this strategy will identify procedures for supporting short-term recruitment needs in the future. My department is working to fill the educator needs for this upcoming year and will be using the strategies it has developed as the basis for this plan's short-term recruitment going forward.

Mr. Speaker and members, for this 10-year educator retention and recruitment strategy to be successful, my department cannot do this work alone. It will need the support of many other departments within the Government of Nunavut, such as Human Resources, Nunavut Arctic College, and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The contribution of our territorial education partners and stakeholders like Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Coalition of Nunavut District Education Authorities is also essential.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education needs to show Nunavummiut that it is doing everything it can to ensure that the children and youth are

receiving the best quality education possible. This strategy is a giant step to making this a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister of Health, Minister Hicke.

Minister's Statement 230 – 5(2): Inuit Youth Attend Nunavut Health Careers Camp

Hon. George Hicke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From May 6 through 10 Iqaluit welcomed students from across Nunavut to participate in the second annual Health Careers Camp. Students were based at Nunavut Arctic College, with camp activities taking place at the Qikiqtani General Hospital and in the college's simulation lab and classrooms.

I would like to take this moment to thank our partners for making this event possible. These partners include the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, the federal government's Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy, Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Makigiaqta, the departments of Education and Health. Mr. Speaker, the logistics of the camp were coordinated by NVision Insight Group.

The intent of this project was to promote health careers among Nunavummiut youth. Twenty students and their mentors attended this camp from eight different communities, including Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Kugaaruk, Naujaat, Gjoa Haven, Baker Lake, Clyde River, and of course Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, students had an opportunity to learn about potential health careers and try out some clinical skills like putting on a cast and conducting hearing tests among other things. Students were also encouraged to build career planning portfolios and meet role models in the health care profession from Nunavut, including the first Inuk heart surgeon, Dr. Donna May Kimmaliardjuk.

Mr. Speaker, my department is proudly working with partners to engage youth and encourage them to explore educational training and professional development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeegok.

Minister's Statement 231 – 5(2): Shared Directional Statement for Policing

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to share with you today that the Department of Justice and the RCMP "V" Division have renewed the shared directional statement which outlines our common public safety and policing goals. This agreement, which is renewed every two years, is a commitment by the Government of Nunavut and the RCMP to work together to provide policing services that enhance the well-being and safety of Nunavummiut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the four policing priority areas in this statement are:

- promoting public trust and restoring

- Inuit confidence;
- promoting accountability of government to the communities;
 - supporting communities at risk; and
 - enhancing crime prevention and reduction initiatives in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut looks forward to working with the RCMP over the next two years, guided by our renewed partnership, to deliver important services for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Mr. Lightstone.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 348 – 5(2): Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Intertwined with Nunavut's most challenging social ills is the largely unspoken issue of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

I'm no specialist in the area, but I'm concerned with the lack of resources to assist individuals with FASD or their caregivers. Unfortunately there is a stigma associated with the disorder that discourages people from addressing the issue. I believe that this stigma has also prevented the Government of Nunavut from producing a comprehensive strategy which is required to create a collaborative effort by all departments that are directly involved with Nunavummiut with FASD.

I questioned the Minister of Education about FASD during the review of the department's budget because I'm worried that there are an alarming number of undiagnosed children and youth in our education system. To my surprise, the minister responded by stating that there are many students that have undiagnosed FASD and that they're unable to track how many students with FASD who require additional support.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that some students who are currently undiagnosed and are presenting with signs of aggression or behavioural difficulties may be penalized for their behaviour. Our government must understand that children and youth cannot change a lifelong disability. Mr. Speaker, it is the system and the people around the individual with FASD that should adjust to accommodate rather than demand conformity.

Early intervention is crucial for those living with FASD. We must assist them to learn to live with their disability before it is too late. Nunavut has a unique opportunity to be a national leader in creating culturally safe and guided best practice approaches to support Nunavummiut with FASD, and I encourage our government to do so.

I hope that the Minister of Education has made some efforts to address this issue. I will have further questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit-

Niaqunnguu, Member Angnakak.

Member's Statement 349 – 5(2): Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Ms. Angnakak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to also talk about fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

Mr. Speaker, we don't talk about FASD enough. This is partly due to the associated shame and stigma, but also because so few Nunavummiut living with the condition have been formally diagnosed. This lack of diagnosis is one of the biggest challenges facing those living with FASD. Caregivers and service providers are in the dark when it comes to knowing how to provide support and address needs.

Mr. Speaker, I was very happy to learn that our Department of Health has recently established an FASD diagnostic team at the Qikiqtani General Hospital's paediatric unit. I fully support public health programming to promote substance-free pregnancies.

However, for an individual already living with FASD, there is no medical cure. There is a life ahead filled with challenges, both physical and mental. Indeed these challenges can become overwhelming. I was shocked to read the statistics on the elevated risk of suicide among individuals with FASD.

Mr. Speaker, the lack of screening and diagnosis for FASD has far-reaching impacts. We need to invest more in this area. By increasing our focus on FASD, we can improve the ability of our frontline service providers, our mental

health workers, our educators, our health care workers, our employers, and our justice professionals to provide services and accommodations for those living with FASD.

Caregivers also need support. I am very pleased that the Piruqatigiit Resource Centre, with funding from the government's Quality of Life Secretariat, will be launching its very first Katimajut Peer Support Program this evening for parents and caregivers of children with FASD. This is a support group to talk about the ups and downs of parenting.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues.

As I said, I am very pleased that the Piruqatigiit Resource Centre, who got funding from the government's Quality of Life Secretariat, will be launching its very first Katimajut Peer Support Program, that's a mouthful, this evening for parents and caregivers of children with FASD. This is a support group to talk about the ups and downs of parenting children with FASD.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage our government to invest more in addressing fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, from prevention to formal diagnosis, from training and support for our service providers, to respite care for parents and

caregivers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

**Member's Statement 350 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Kugluktuk
Residents**

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Kuglukturmiut and Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to rise today to recognize a number of Kugluktuk residents for their successes and achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Thomas Bolt for completing the Environmental Technology Program, and not only for completing the course but also making the Dean's List.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate Coral Newman for completing her first year at Nunavut Sivuniksavut.

Also, I applaud Vikki Niptanatiak for completing her first year of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program.

Mr. Speaker, these are individual achievements, but they are also successes that their parents, families, friends, and the whole community can share and celebrate. I am very proud of them all. *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

**Member's Statement 351 – 5(2):
Congratulations to Sanikiluaq's
2019 High School Graduates**

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to the people of Sanikiluaq and the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it is a true privilege to again have the opportunity to rise in this House and acknowledge the hard work and success of our high school graduates. This year seven young men and women are graduating from Sanikiluaq's Paatsaali High School.

Mr. Speaker, a High School Diploma is a key for opening the doors to many opportunities and brighter futures.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate:

- Joseph Amagoalik,
- Mike Kavik,
- Lucy Rachel Novalinga,
- Richard Novalinga,
- Hannah Uppik,
- Jonasié Ittuk Emikotailuk, and
- Alice Mickiyuk.

Mr. Speaker, their success should be shared with their parents and guardians who encouraged their children to go to school and do their best. Teachers and community members also deserve some of the credit for supporting our youth as they work towards advancing their education and expanding their future opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, the success of these 2019 graduates shows the other youth in the community what self-discipline and dedication to their studies can achieve.

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate Sanikiluaq's 2019 graduates and extend my congratulations to everyone who helped our graduates reach this success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

**Member's Statement 352 – 5(2):
Medical Travellers Bringing
Alcohol to Communities**

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to those who are watching and listening to the proceedings in Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, as well as to my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express a concern held by many residents, particularly in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, we now have many residents who travel down on medical travel. As of recently, as we are all aware, medical patients are now provided escorts, which is beneficial to medical patients, especially those who leave for quite a long period or travel down to give birth, as they sometimes are away for over a month. In the past when escorts weren't provided, the spouse would be left alone for many weeks, but nowadays they are able to follow as escorts.

Mr. Speaker, in some ways this is advantageous for the patients, but it also has a darker side to it, causing difficulties amongst the people that we know. Today with the availability locally, there are too many medical escorts in particular bringing alcohol back home. Some of them only escort relatives so they can buy alcohol, at least from my perspective.

Many people are bringing back alcohol and some just seem to be here to buy alcohol. That is becoming a problem in the outlying communities, especially for the older generations. It is becoming problematic for many elders when alcohol is brought back to the communities. The amount of alcohol coming in has drastically increased ever since escorts were allowed.

Nonetheless, it is advantageous for pregnant women when their spouses can escort them here, but it does have repercussions that aren't as great. It is becoming a bigger concern for some of my constituents as it is causing problems when alcohol is brought back to the communities.

I will be asking some questions to the Minister of Health on this subject at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

**Member's Statement 353 – 5(2): 2019
Post-secondary Successes for
Pangnirtung Residents**

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, colleagues, my family, and my fellow residents of Pangnirtung.

I rise today to express my feelings of pride. I would first of all like to recognize individuals who have helped me tremendously in my life.

I have quite a number of relatives who are graduating this year, as well as completing on-the-job training. I really want to voice my pride in their success, especially in light of the fact that we were strongly encouraged to attend school by our parents, our grandmothers and our grandfathers. When I was growing up, I had a great-grandmother named Qattuuq who lived to be 103. They epitomized strength and patience and were very skilled at surviving.

The descendants living in 2019 will be graduating this spring and I would like to recognize them. I know that our ancestors helped us get to this point with prayers and by guiding us to enable us to grow. Although our lifestyle today is vastly different, we have received guidance from our ancestors who wanted us to thrive. I would like to recognize the 2019 graduates:

- My cousin, Nathalia Okalik, (interpretation ends) Diploma of Justice, Algonquin College.

(interpretation) I apologize I will be speaking in English at some point.

- My cousin, Maatalii Okalik,

(interpretation ends) Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Carleton University;

- My niece, Kelly Karpik, while teaching is completing her Bachelor's Degree in Education;
- My younger sister, Annie Karpik, while working has received her Diploma in Health Promotions with the GN;
- My daughter, my little girl, Natasha will be receiving her Diploma in Social Work at St. Lawrence College, with a GPA of 3.75 and on the Dean's List two years in a row.

>> *Applause*

I am very proud of the girls in my family, and to also mention that there are two more coming along the way, halfway through her diploma in law school here in Iqaluit, for my niece, Emily Karpik, and my cousin, Nadine Okalik in Criminology at Carleton University. Good luck and (interpretation) I congratulate you all. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towntongie.

**Member's Statement 354 – 5(2):
Addressing Homelessness**

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to the people of Chesterfield Inlet, and in particular the elderly Leonie Putulik Pitausak, I say "good day" to you and to the residents of Rankin Inlet North.

I try to get closer to my constituents prior to travelling for a session here in Iqaluit and I host a local radio phone-in show where I ask constituents to convey their issues.

I was a bit disconcerted when hosting the local radio show in Rankin Inlet, especially when the topic turned to the lack of housing. I know that this applies throughout Nunavut where the housing shortage is a crisis, but during my radio show I was informed that many people are living in cabins with their children. The mothers are living in the cabins, but their children move out and live with their boyfriend or girlfriend because there isn't enough housing in Rankin Inlet.

Another issue raised was young men who are basically walking the streets due to the lack of housing, and I believe this is happening all over Nunavut, with more men impacted. I was told this is because there is no shelter available, especially for our young men. There is usually a shelter available for women.

I just wanted to voice this for your consideration by informing the housing corporation that they should research other housing options, such as small houses, what the costs are, and to present it to the members, or alternatively they can look into (interpretation ends) trailers. (interpretation) These trailers cost about \$10,000 and can be shipped up via sealift. I believe we need to consider all options and ideas for all of Nunavut as this is what we face in our communities.

Nonetheless, I was also informed that overcrowding is becoming a big issue. There are grandmothers who have their

children living with them, who then have their own children, and they all live under one roof. We have to keep that in mind as members, as there is a severe shortage of housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Netsilik, Member Qirngnuq.

**Member's Statement 355 – 5(2):
Police Services**

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "good day" to my fellow residents of Kugaaruk and the people of Taloyoak and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the issue of police services in our communities, which was brought up by the Member for Quttiktuq.

Mr. Speaker, the role that the police play in our society is extremely important. They protect our communities and serve as role models for our youth. They put themselves at risk in dangerous situations, and for this we should be grateful for their service.

Mr. Speaker, we place a great deal of trust in our police, and we give them significant powers and authority. (interpretation ends) This is why I believe that it is important for the police to demonstrate the highest standards of conduct.

Mr. Speaker, allegations of police brutality are very serious. We trust the police not to overstep their authority or use unnecessary force.

In Nunavut our small communities need to have complete trust in the officers who are responsible for serving them.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is a federal institution and there is an independent Civilian Review and Complaints Commission in place to deal with specific allegations of misconduct.

The Government of Nunavut has a contract in place with the RCMP, and I believe that we need to work closely together.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) When new officers come to Nunavut, they need to receive appropriate orientation so that they better understand and appreciate the culture of the people and communities they are sworn to serve and protect.

I strongly support efforts and initiatives that will result in our own young people seeing the police as a positive element in their lives and communities. We need more young Inuit in the force, serving their own communities.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the appropriate minister on

this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

**Member's Statement 356 – 5(2):
Recognizing Isuma and Arctiq of
Igloolik**

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day to my colleagues and to the residents of my community.

I rise to voice my immense pride of the individuals mentioned this morning by the Minister of Economic Development regarding Isuma and Arctiq, as their mandates involve showcasing the Inuit language and traditional culture.

As a matter of fact, the film the minister mentioned today was filmed at the floe edge. I happened to be present and I am quite proud of them for their achievements as they are very active. As a matter of fact, while at the floe edge, it showed just how capable Inuit are today. They were able to stream it live directly from the ice. As the minister mentioned, it was streamed overseas.

There was also an Inuk in Venice who was showing the live feed and movies to the Europeans. They were astonished by the capability of Inuit as they watched the shows, and when we were at the floe edge, there was a swell creating undulations on the sea ice. Even with the sea ice swells, they were still able to film, showing their capabilities as filmmakers.

As well, I believe everyone knows Zacharias Kunuk, who has produced

different films that are all based in Inuktitut. We anticipate the release of future films that were recently completed. I take great pride in Isuma as they have accomplished a great deal. They will be in Venice this fall to showcase more films.

I would like my colleagues to join me in congratulating the filmmakers. They show Inuit culture and language. Let us be proud of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applaud*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

**Member's Statement 357 – 5(2):
Happy Seventh Birthday to
Granddaughter**

Mr. Akoak: *Quanaqqutit*, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I say "good day" to my colleagues and to all the residents of Gjoa Haven, from newborns to elders. I wish you all a good day.

I rise today to commemorate a loved one. I am usually here in Iqaluit when their birthday is celebrated and I haven't been able to celebrate in Gjoa Haven with her for over seven years now. I have now spent seven years here in Iqaluit when my loved one celebrates her birthday.

As today is her birthday, I say (interpretation ends) "good afternoon" (interpretation) if she is watching on television. I wish you a happy birthday today. This is for my granddaughter, who is very talkative and always has something to say. She is also loud, and I

believe she will be a great MLA if she is elected in the future.

>> *Laughter*

Yes, I am immensely proud of her and love her deeply. She is also named after my grandmother, Taipaarjuk, and my endearment term for her is *Mamitsiara*. I wish her a wonderful day and hope you enjoy your birthday, Trinity Akoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

**Member's Statement 358 – 5(2): Lack
of Daycare Space in Arviat**

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. Mr. Speaker, a former regular member who sat on this side mentioned in the past that some communities are forgotten or left behind. I want to remind him now that with respect to our local facilities called in English (interpretation ends) community learning centres, (interpretation) perhaps they have the same feeling of being forgotten by Arctic College.

I want to use this example in Arviat where the adult learning centre is. We are appreciative that a new adult educator has been hired, Joy Suluk. Joy is now working at the adult learning centre in Arviat, and I congratulate her and I am happy she is in that position. However, where she works is the source of my concern.

If the Minister responsible for Arctic College visits Arviat, I will give him a

tour of the building. It is too small and it is inadequate for our community. It has (interpretation ends) three classrooms, (interpretation) yet Arviat has a population approaching 3,000 residents. (interpretation ends) Three thousand people and three classrooms.

(interpretation) Further, residents on income assistance in Arviat in 2017 totalled over one thousand people, and (interpretation ends) three classrooms. (interpretation) How can we decrease the numbers of residents on income assistance when barriers are everywhere, especially with the limited capacity of the adult education centre, as it is too small?

Another barrier they face is the lack of daycare spaces. Currently the students enrolled in the Teacher Education Program in Arviat face limited daycare spaces and the adult learning centre, if a new facility had been built, would have included a daycare. There are no daycare spaces currently. This is problematic and creates obstacles for residents who want to pursue further education and I am bringing it up.

I know the minister is listening and when he visits Arviat, I would like to show him the centre. We have to prioritize education in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaerner.

**Member's Statement 359 – 5(2):
Mould Issues in Public Housing**

Mr. Kaerner (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day, my fellow residents of Amittuq, my colleagues, as well as Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the ongoing concern of household mould. It continues to be a concern due to the side effects, such as being a cause of respiratory illnesses, people suffering from asthma, and children suffering rashes as a result.

I believe this requires further investigation by the housing corporation. When residents in that situation go to the health centre, they are advised to move to another unit, with a letter of support provided by the nurse or doctor. I believe the housing corporation needs to place more emphasis on this, as children are getting rashes like eczema, and I believe that we should be using the letters of support from the nurse or doctor to have the family moved to a different unit while their unit is being remediated.

This is the reason for my statement today as this continues to be an ongoing concern by my fellow residents of Amittuq. I am well aware that we face a housing shortage, but we need to brainstorm on ways of trying to resolve the concerns of our constituents. It's for those reasons that I rise in the House on behalf of my constituents, and as per my campaign promises, I stated I would work tirelessly on their behalf, so I will continue that.

At the appropriate time I will be asking questions to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Member Nakashuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 475 – 5(2): Services for Elders at Embassy West

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the Minister of Health.

Last year during our winter sitting when members undertook their review of the 2019-2020 capital estimates in Committee of the Whole, I asked some questions about the services available to our elders who are staying at the Embassy West facility in Ottawa. When we toured the facility that year in July, we were informed that there were only two interpreters to provide Inuit language services for almost 30 Inuit elders from Nunavut.

My question to the minister is: can he provide an update on what steps have been taken to hire additional interpreters to provide Inuit language services for elders staying at the Embassy West facility? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for that question. We work very hard with the Embassy West facility to assist them with their staffing needs. We very much

understand it's a challenge for communication when there are language barriers, and I can say with all sincerity that I know Embassy West is working very hard to make sure they have bilingual staff on all the time. The majority of the time they do have bilingual staff in place. Unfortunately they don't have it 24/7. We are working with them continuously.

Our Continuing Care Division communicates very regularly with Embassy West to work with them to make sure that they have bilingual staff on hand. We do have a number of different supports within the facility where we have people visiting. We have people who assist us on a volunteer basis as well. I do understand the member's concern. It is an ongoing issue and it is something that we are working with Embassy West to rectify. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's obvious that they're in a precarious situation, especially those who have nowhere to turn to and elders who don't speak English. They need to be provided with more assistance. There should be somebody available during the night who can understand them.

I asked this question during a previous sitting about medical follow-up appointments for elders for such services as dental care and eye care. I had asked if they are given regular examinations during our previous sitting. I would like to ask the minister if it has been rectified so that elders residing in that facility can

receive ongoing medical follow-ups.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for following up on that question. That is one where I can say we have made some progress. There are more dental services that are available right at the facility, unless it's a complicated procedure where they do still use outside sources, but the majority of dental services and doctor visits are done in the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me reiterate that the elders at that facility should be examined. Last year when we toured the facility, there were not as many elders housed there, but more elders were sent down. With the government spending this amount of funding, we should ensure that a person is always available so that Nunavummiut won't worry as much about our elders who are housed in that facility.

(interpretation ends) I appreciate that while we do not have enough beds and facilities in Nunavut to provide the specialized care that many of our elders need, we must access those services elsewhere. However, with our elders being so far away, it is even more critical to ensure that they are receiving the services they need in a language that they understand and that they are safe and comfortable.

Will the minister commit to providing an update on the status of services being provided to our elders who are currently receiving care at the Embassy West facility in Ottawa and, if so, will he commit to providing that update before the end of this sitting? (interpretation)
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood the member correctly on the interpretive services, she wants a commitment before the end of this sitting. Can I just get a confirmation of that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Please clarify your question, Member Nakashuk.

Ms. Nakashuk: Thank you, *Uqaqtii*. My question is, I guess, in terms of providing and ensuring that they have the proper interpreting service available as well as proper follow-ups for the elders who are staying there.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll deal with the latter issue first. As I mentioned earlier, there is continuous communication with our Home and Continuing Care Division with Embassy West, with follow-up for all the residents in there to make sure that their needs are being met. To provide a full, current update on interpretive services, there are currently two full-time interpreters employed at Embassy West. One provides service from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to

5:00, another provides service Monday to Friday from 9:00 'til 3:00 but is going to be transferred from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and alternating weekends starting very soon, if it hasn't started already, once the final training.

There is a note in here that I'm sure all of us are aware with the difficulty in finding interpreters and translators even here in Nunavut, and Ottawa is outside the territory, so it provides another added layer of complexity. That being said, that doesn't mean we're not working to increasing the interpretive and translation staff at Embassy West along with their support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towntongie.

Question 476 – 5(2): Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Illness

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health regarding diagnosis of mental illness.

Mr. Speaker, I raised a concern about the treatment of a young Inuk man in my constituency. The parents were very concerned about the diagnosis and treatment prescribed to their son by a (interpretation ends) general practitioner, (interpretation) someone who had not been taught how to deal with a person with mental health issues.

Can the minister clarify to me what kinds of specialist services are available in Nunavut to address mental health issues and concerns? Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the focus on mental health that has been gaining a lot of traction over the last couple of years, it has allowed me the opportunity to provide additional PYs, through the support of this House, to provide more mental health workers across the territory. We're in the process of fulfilling that.

I do want to make a special note that whenever clinicians are coming to or returning to Nunavut, we work with an orientation training program. I alluded to it the other day, I believe, where right now we've had 41 clinicians who have completed the training as of last month, April 2019, and 14 more are being scheduled for training. I just want to highlight some of the initiatives under that that they want to make sure that the training that is being developed is done in conjunction with, obviously, the GN, the Representative for Children and Youth, the Department of Culture and Heritage, the Department of Justice, the Office of the Public Guardian, Nunavut Arctic College, the chair of Inuit language and culture, the Department of Family Services, Health, IT, Human Resources, and Quality of Life. The training includes Inuit societal values and a cultural competency workshop, just to name a small portion of their curriculum.

Mr. Speaker, when we hire people to come here from outside of the territory, we want to make sure that they know that they are working in Nunavut. I think

it's a very important aspect that when we deal with health care professionals, if we do have concerns, that they be brought to my attention. I have said it frequently that if I don't know it's broken, I can't fix it. I don't think that this is broken. There is a lot of work that has gone into making sure that the mental health staff in the communities are trained and are capable of assessing and diagnosing mental illness.

If the member has specifics on this case that she would like to talk to me about outside of this House, I would be more than welcome to sit down with the member. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a long-winded answer. That wasn't my question. My question is very specific, and I have been grateful to the Minister of Health for his work in the past.

I am concerned that a great many young men and women across Nunavut are being diagnosed with bipolar disorder or schizophrenia without being properly assessed by a specialist or a professional with particular expertise in this field. I'm not talking about all these departments that have gone for training. I am even more disturbed that general practitioners appear to be prescribing treatments that they are not qualified to prescribe, which was in this case.

Can the minister clearly explain how many general practitioners are working in Nunavut, or do we have a specialist in each region that deals with clinical

mental psychologists trained in that field? Should they be following up on patients who they identify but may not be qualified to diagnose as having mental illness or disorders? That's my question. Do we have specialists in each region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that level of detail on what professional practices are being practised exactly where. I've got some general numbers where I've got 29 professional frontline staff across the territory, almost 50 paraprofessional mental health workers across the territory, and when I look at the different levels of staffing, Rankin Inlet has two professional filled positions and two paraprofessional [positions] filled, and in Chesterfield Inlet there are currently none, but it is shared with the Rankin Inlet Health Centre.

With regard to the specificity of practice, I would have to get back to the member on that. I don't have that level of detail. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Towtongie.

Ms. Towtongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I do know the Minister of Health works extremely hard. However, I recognize that none of us here are medical professionals and we're certainly not specialists in the field of mental illness, but I am concerned at the growing trend of our young men and women being diagnosed with serious mental illness.

We see these in the communities; two or three walking around. Bipolar and schizophrenia keeps coming up.

Will the minister commit to directing his officials to review those cases where individuals have been diagnosed with bipolar disorders or schizophrenia and sent... ? This individual was sent to a mental institution and later on his parents found out the general practitioner should not have prescribed the medication to this young man. ...sent to a mental institution to ensure that there is proper diagnoses and treatment and appropriately screened and approved by mental health specialists? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get that information from the member and I will request a chart review of this case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Member Keyootak.

Question 477 – 5(2): Medical Travellers Bringing Alcohol Back to Communities

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, during Members' Statements, I raised a concern held by individuals in my constituency communities. They have conveyed their concerns about medical patients who are bringing back alcohol to their home

communities.

Mr. Speaker, I do know that this is a complicated matter and I know it is impossible to completely enforce Nunavummiut to abstain from alcohol, and that it impinges on their rights. I am aware of that, but I believe more effort can be put towards public safety.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister elaborate further on the rules for the benefit of medical patients and their escorts? I know that when they are going to Ottawa, they are provided written rules on what is allowable and what isn't allowed for medical escorts, and this applies for medical travel outside of Nunavut.

Now, we have many medical patients who travel to Iqaluit from the outlying communities. Are these medical patients also provided with written rules of what is allowed or what is prohibited? Are they given the paperwork that outlines what the rules are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are very strict rules. I'm going to read the first bullet on the Client and Client Escort Travel Agreement. The very first bullet in general terms, "Health does not tolerate alcohol or illegal drug use, or abusive behaviors, while on Medical" assistance. They have to sign this and it says, "If I do not fulfill my responsibilities, I will not hold Health responsible for the cost of my travel assistance, and I will reimburse Health for all costs incurred." I understand that all these travel policies

have been explained to them. Mr. Speaker, both the clients and the escorts have to sign this agreement before travel is arranged.

In a final recourse, clients that have a history of not following this may be selected as not eligible to be an escort down the road. Not only that, but when people are bringing alcohol into dry communities, they're breaking the law. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't matter whether you're a medical traveller or any traveller. We have very clear rules in our communities that the population votes on whether they want to be restricted or non-restricted and how that restriction takes place. If they are breaking the law and people are aware of it, please bring it to my attention and I will investigate their eligibility to be escorts in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Keyootak.

Mr. Keyootak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for responding to my question. Mr. Speaker, this is of great concern in some of the communities. There is a beer and wine store here in Iqaluit where anyone can purchase beer and wine. The fact that this store allows anyone to purchase beer and wine is problematic in light of the fact that some communities are listed as dry communities, but residents from these communities can still buy beer and wine whenever the store is open.

Can there be any further restrictions placed at the beer and wine store to check medical escorts who are coming from dry communities so that they can't

purchase alcohol, or does this require an interdepartmental arrangement with the Department of Health to ensure that medical escorts from dry communities can't purchase alcohol to bring back to their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am kind of blending hats here a little bit, but with the beer and wine store, if you are a resident of Nunavut or a resident of anywhere, you can show your ID. This is a non-restricted community. We can't restrict people from outside Iqaluit from purchasing alcohol here.

It is very clear in the agreement that the medical travellers sign that they are not permitted to use alcohol or illegal drugs. They have to sign that agreement. Like I stated before, it doesn't matter whether you are a medical traveller or not; it is illegal to transport alcohol into restricted communities. It's an endeavour that I know we discuss fairly frequently.

You look at Economic Development and Transportation on the transportation side of things. When you travel south or from the south to the north, there is screening that is done. To promote screening at the airports for all communities would be very cost prohibitive, but I still say that the best method is reporting. If people know that there are individuals who are transporting alcohol illegally into the community, they should be reported to the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Netsilik,

Member Qirngnuq.

Question 478 – 5(2): Police Services

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) My questions are for the Acting Minister of Justice.

In my member's statement today I spoke about the importance of ensuring that newly arrived RCMP officers receive adequate orientation to our culture and communities. Can the minister describe how the Department of Justice is working with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in this area?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeegok.

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank him for the question on that matter. (interpretation ends) Since October 2018 the department has engaged with Inuit organizations to address the barriers to recruiting and comprehensive ways and in different ways. Also, there are orientation programs that are offered when a new RCMP member goes to the "V" division. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my member's statement today I also spoke about the importance of encouraging more young people from Nunavut to pursue careers in policing. Can the minister describe how the Department of Justice is working with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in

this area? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeegok.

Mr. Akeegok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. Yes, the "V" division is actively trying to recruit Inuit employees to increase the representation of the communities we serve. I had discussions with the commanding officer this morning when we were signing off on the shared directional statement. That is one of our main priorities and something that our government will continue to support. I am anticipating a lot of good work coming out of the commanding officer, as her focus has been on raising Inuit employment within the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Qirngnuq.

Mr. Qirngnuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the acting minister for responding. He made it clearer.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that was raised in our recent televised standing committee hearing on the Legal Services Board was the issue of civilian oversight of the police. In its response to the standing committee's report, the government indicated that "The Government of Nunavut has been engaged" with "several independent civilian investigative bodies...as well as the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to determine if improvements can be made to oversight of serious incident investigations in

Nunavut.”

Can the minister update the House today on the status of this work?

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member. I hope that with the short time that I have been acting here and trying to get briefed as much as possible from the department and from the RCMP with care, I applaud our current minister. She gets to do a tough job in terms of this, especially with the RCMP.

There are different levels where, if they're involved in incidents, there are different levels of safety. Where independent investigators get assigned for very serious incidents, there are certain ways. For any civilian, our Department of Justice encourages them to report to the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission for the RCMP mounted police. This is an independent agency which ensures that complaints are examined fairly and impartially. There is a 1-800 number and also you are able to access their forms through the website. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

Question 479 – 5(2): Wheelchair Accessibility across Nunavut

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my questions to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, a number of Kugluktuk

residents with mobility issues recently shared some concerns regarding wheelchair accessibility while travelling. Can the minister describe what specific arrangements are made for when a medical travel client is confined to a wheelchair but must travel, sometimes on multiple airlines, to get to their appointment? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our Medical Travel Division works very hard to make sure that all legs of travel are aware if there are mobility issues and to make sure that there are accommodations that are made for wheelchair access or any other mobility issues. Again, if there are any gaps, I would be appreciative if the member would make me aware of it. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. Many Kugluktuk residents travel to Yellowknife for medical appointments. Some of the concerns I have heard were related to accessibility in that city. However, I am certain that similar challenges must face medical clients in wheelchairs who travel to Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet.

Can the minister clarify what specific arrangements are made to provide appropriate transportation and accommodation arrangements for medical travel clients who use wheelchairs and travel to the regional centres for medical services? *Koana*, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our regional airports are all wheelchair-accessible. Again, we do work with the airlines to make sure that they're aware if somebody is travelling in a wheelchair with mobility issues so that any accommodations that need to be made can be made.

Within the boarding homes themselves, there are some, not all rooms, but there are some rooms that are available for mobility issues with the wider doorways and whatnot to accommodate wheelchair access. We do have occasionally challenges here in Iqaluit that there are a limited number of rooms. They work very hard to prioritize those, but if somebody is in that room, they don't take the step of kicking them out. They ask them very nicely if they would give up their room to allow somebody with mobility issues to take over and find other accommodations for that client. There is some personal responsibility that people have to consider other people in a proper way. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I do recognize that communication gaps may occur, and I also appreciate that the Office of Patient Relations will help to address issues and concerns. However, this is often after the fact.

Will the minister commit to ensuring that adequate information and supports are made available so that medical

clients who are travelling while in a wheelchair do not face undue hardships during their trip? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll reinforce that message within the department. I'm sure they're listening right now, but I will reinforce how important it is to make sure that anyone involved at any leg of transport for medical travel patients with mobility issues are made aware and any accommodations needed are made. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Question 480 – 5(2): Working with Local Hamlets

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

The first question I wish to ask relates to the communities, given the department works with municipal governments to ensure things are operating smoothly. However, my first question relates to capital equipment prioritized by the communities, where they request equipment from the Department of Community and Government Services.

As an example, is there a screening committee that vets these community requests and determines if the priority list is being adhered to, or do officials work with local officials to develop the priority list? How do they ensure that these lists are followed based on the

priorities listed? Do they communicate this to the community? Is there any kind of vetting committee that checks to see if the required equipment was indeed sent to the community and where their prioritized equipment will be delivered to? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank Mr. Quassa for that question. With respect to the items he questioned me about, the answer would be yes, yes, yes, and finally a yes.

>> *Laughter*

The items you mentioned are real and there are steps in the process to screen the listings along with all action items required when they are completed. Then the process includes a signature page outlining the equipment to be delivered and if it was delivered. It is dealt with by both our officials and staff who are tasked to undertake the work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the minister for his yeses. Nonetheless, I want to clarify each of the items that the minister agreed to and I will provide some background.

The Department of CGS arrived at an agreement with the Hamlet of Igloodik.

They stated that they would support the community's power generation and subsidize fuel expenses totalling about \$40,000 to \$50,000. It was agreed to, but the hamlet still hasn't received any notification, although they were told that the information would be conveyed by April. What is it today now? We are nearing the end of May or it is very close, yet the hamlet was expecting notification on this project by April.

Another factor relates to parts for the water pumping station that the hamlet submitted a request for. It was for the (interpretation ends) pumps (interpretation) for the water station. They have sent requests for the parts, so it would be good to know when the parts will be sent. They haven't received a response to date on this request.

They have yet to respond to other requests the hamlet has submitted to the department regarding the water reservoir. I have gone to taste the water. It is quite briny as it has a salty taste. If I used the traditional word in Inuktitut, it is laced with salt. It isn't very tasty to drink. These are the requests for assistance the hamlet submitted which have never been responded to, among others.

How is the minister able to properly respond on the actual status of the four yeses he gave and that they respond immediately and review requests upon receipt? What is the status of these requests today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the Hamlet of Igloodik, we worked on

that issue raised by the member about the briny taste of the water reservoir as well as the need for clean drinking water, resulting in the water plant.

I believe Mr. Quassa will recall when we debated this in the winter, when the water plant was installed and once it was operating, the hamlet requested further assistance on the operations and the need to replace filters to remove the salt. We did come to an agreement with the Hamlet of Igloolik, and we assigned an official to spend another winter to train hamlet staff on the operational aspects, so they were trained on the operations. We have also spoken to them about the parts that require replacement that we would provide assistance with, and the majority of the work was completed.

Perhaps, in order to come to a common understanding, I will ask my officials to speak to the SAO. The work we committed to, based on my understanding, has been completed. We have also identified the areas that we promised to assist with and we will continue to work towards that. This also applies to any replacement parts they may need. Based on my understanding, things are proceeding smoothly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope and I know that the staff at the Hamlet of Igloolik are listening in, but they are still waiting for the parts. Perhaps all I can do is to urge the minister to commence discussions on this with the hamlet because they are still waiting.

It seems obvious that Igloolik isn't the only community in this situation. In talking about the water reservoir, it doesn't have any fencing around it and garbage is being blown into the water, which will continue to occur without a fence. There is a fence planned as part of the original project, but apparently they were waiting for an answer and decided to proceed on their own and install the fence.

This is just one of many issues, so I would like to ask the minister if he can communicate with our hamlet officials to resolve these issues. Will he commit to having discussions with our community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fencing he is referring to, yes, I believe I stated this winter that when the snow melts from the ground and they can drill into the earth, the project would commence, though I am not sure if the snow has melted away in Igloolik where the fencing will go. If we have stated we will do the work on projects, then we will work on them.

I will also commit to calling the mayor of Igloolik when I have some time to speak to these issues, and I will also keep my colleague informed about the developments. If we committed to doing the work, at least based on my understanding, we are still working on those issues and I will ensure I keep you informed along with the mayor of Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-

Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Question 481 – 5(2): Addressing Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my member's statement, my questions are for the Minister of Education.

It has been nearly three months since I brought up my concerns over the issue of FASD in our education system, and I would like to know that progress has been made. My first question is: does the minister consider FASD in our education system a priority? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question and I applaud him for his push on removing the stigma on FASD.

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, we know, is a disorder that is diagnosable. I want to clarify that although we don't know the number of students who have undiagnosed FASD, however, we do track the number of students that do have FASD and other learning barriers. With that information, we do try our best to address learning disabilities and learning barriers, including fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to know that the

Minister of Education now has a firm grasp on the number of students who currently have confirmed FASD in our education system. My next question is: would the minister be able to share with us that figure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The numbers are tracked at the school level and so I am sure we do have the actual total figures across the territory. I just don't have that figure in front of me, but I can bring it back to the member and my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary, Member Lightstone.

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I would appreciate that figure at a later date.

My last question is considering that FASD will require a comprehensive and collaborative effort to address, my last question for the minister is whether or not he has directed the Department of Education to work with other departments or outside organizations to create a framework to address FASD in our education system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Joanasié.

Hon. David Joanasié: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for his question. We did identify student support as one area that our department can do more.

Back in the fall of 2017 we were able to directly provide access for education support services. This is in the form of occupational therapy, speech language pathology, physiotherapy, and in some cases with behavioural intervention to improve programming for students. This is for those with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. These are some of the complex needs that our teachers and school staff deal with on a day-to-day basis.

I have discussed further with the Minister of Health on how we can join forces on tacking down hard on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Question 482 – 5(2): Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my statement, I was pleased to learn that the Department of Health now has an FASD diagnostic team established at the hospital. In the past there was also a territorial FASD coordinator in the department.

Can the minister indicate whether his department currently has a territorial-wide FASD strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have a specific territorial strategy, but we work very closely with the Canada Northwest FASD Partnership group to support work in building national coordination on FASD. We do have a seat on that steering committee. We work very closely with population health, with the Piruqatigiit Resource Centre to help provide continuing education and resources to individuals with diagnosed or suspected FASD. We provide some of the core funding for that group.

We've also got another advisory committee that meets with our community... I can't remember the name of it right now and I don't want to give our interpreters another acronym, so I can follow up with the member specifically with that other committee, but we work very closely with the different regions and the communities. We've got five community workers and three dieticians in the advisory group that I alluded to.

We're working very closely, again, with the Department of Education on identifying assessment cases. We want to work very closely with all our health care providers, from the very introductory level of our maternal health care team that provides counselling and information services to expectant and new mothers, on working towards alleviating or removing even FASD wherever possible, but working with children who are suffering from fetal alcohol spectrum disorder to make sure that they get the services that they require. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member

Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased with the response. It makes me think then there is no reason why there couldn't be a strategy because the minister, as he says, has got all these partnerships. That would be a great start right there. It's something that we hope to see in the very near future.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government's Child First Initiative ensures that Inuit children have access to services and supports, such as mental health counselling, assessments and screening. Can the minister tell us whether his department has submitted any requests for funding under this initiative for FASD-specific assessment, screening and diagnosis for Inuit children in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for the question. While I'm not aware of every application we have to the federal government, we do work closely and are funded in part by the Public Health Agency of Canada to provide FASD mentoring project supports and through the Aboriginal Head Start sites across Canada to continue to provide FASD-informed care.

I do want to take this opportunity as well to mention some of the new resources that are going to be coming out in the next few weeks on substance-exposed pregnancies and FASD. These resources and training will be provided to frontline staff and community health staff to make sure that there is more culturally safe

and relevant information about FASD, and like Member Lightstone and my colleague Minister Joanasic talked about, removing that stigma across the territory so that people can make trauma-informed approaches. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. In regard to that funding agreement that I talked about, the Child First Initiative, if there is any money that the GN can access, I think we should do that. If they haven't done that, it's something to look into.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut collects funds from the sale of wine and beer through the Nunavut Liquor Commission, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Finance. Has the Minister of Health had the opportunity to discuss with the Minister of Finance the possibility of allocating proceeds from the sale of wine and beer in Nunavut towards addressing the health consequences of alcohol use and specifically towards addressing the impacts of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that dialogue has occurred, I can assure the member. Through the "Let's Be Aware" programming that the Department of Finance puts forward on alcohol awareness and through our Liquor Revolving Fund, there are funds allocated for educational and awareness

programming up to \$750,000 a year.

One of the things that I have been looking at is to try to make sure that we're not duplicating processes, but that we can leverage that money across different departments that have identified needs to make sure that there are more education and awareness programming dollars available to make sure that the public is aware of consequences such as FASD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Question 483 – 5(2): Mine Training

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Arctic College, Mr. Speaker. It's also in regard to the mining sector.

I submitted a written question to the minister on March 12 and I will be focusing on the response, (interpretation ends) Written Question 30 – 5(2). (interpretation) Looking at the Department of Economic Development, it appears that the budget amounts directed to mine training are decreasing every year. I am proud that Arctic College's monies are increasing. In 2016-17, \$251,000; in 2017-18, \$184,000; and in 2018-19, \$524,000. Even though there is a gradual increase, I believe it's not enough.

If we look at Agnico Eagle, Mr. Speaker, and I know you're well aware, in 2018-19 approximately in the middle, they spent \$1.6 billion in Nunavut to build the mine site. Even though the money is

coming in, the government is not up to par with providing adequate training to Nunavummiut. I would first like to ask the minister if he thinks that the amount currently being directed to Arctic College is sufficient. Is it up to par with the gradual development of the mining sector in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for asking that question regarding mining in Nunavut. (interpretation ends) I want to assure the member that when I sat over on the other side of the House, it is true that I spoke for the have-nots and I haven't changed my view on this while I'm on this side of the House.

Mr. Speaker, (interpretation) since mining development is increasing, we would like to make sure that there is training provided for young people. Mr. Speaker, I can say that Naujaat and Coral Harbour are non-decentralized communities. The mining sector keeps our young people occupied. For example, I have a relative in Coral Harbour who takes care of his parents and if there was no mining and he wasn't employed at the mine, he would just be on income support. I am proud of the mines and I do fully support the people who work in the mining sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also appreciate the minister's response in that he supports this idea, but he didn't respond to the question I asked him.

With the amount of funds set aside to date as of last year was approximately \$524,000 specifically towards the whole of Nunavut specific to the mining sector where the college offers courses. In looking at the \$524,000, is it adequate? Is this adequate for the needs we have to meet the demands of the mining sector? Alternatively, if they were to access more funding for mine training, would it be more appropriate? I would like to clearly understand this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clear that if we had more money, we could do a lot more because \$500,000 is very little with the mining sector being huge and the high unemployment rate. Yes, we would like to see an increase in funding for mine training, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister. Yes, it's noticeable that there is too much segregation in Nunavut. There are the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Baffin regions, and even within the government there's too much segregation and not enough focus on working together so that we can provide the proper mine training. We should set up a (interpretation ends)

Nunavut mine training society. (interpretation) My last question to the minister is: is the college working on that and, if so, when will it be created? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I admit that Nunavut needs to do better in terms of working with the mining industry, and I commit to the House that I intend to do so while I am the minister for this second half of our term. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Gjoa Haven, Member Akoak.

Question 484 – 5(2): Tourism

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

As the minister will recall, I wrote a letter to him in January of this year in order to provide him with a copy of a proposal that the Municipality of Gjoa Haven had prepared to support the community's emerging tourism sector. I subsequently tabled the correspondence in this House on February 19, 2019.

Mr. Speaker, it is now the end of May. My question is: can the minister tell me when I can expect a reply to my letter? If he did reply, I haven't received a copy of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and

Transportation, Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Yes, I have replied and I assume that you and your hamlet have received it. I'll definitely follow up with my office to see exactly where we delivered that. I do recall signing that letter off with a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies for not getting the letter. Thank you for looking into it.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week the minister made a statement concerning his department's recent tourism summit. In his statement the minister indicated that he has signed two new memoranda of understanding, including one with the Association of Arctic Expedition Cruise Ship Operators.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister is aware, the discovery of the lost ships of the Franklin Expedition has created worldwide interest in visiting Gjoa Haven. Just that statement alone, I'm just remembering our late Mr. Speaker. Every day he would come up to my office and say, "Tony, my buddy, my buddy with two ships."

>> *Laughter*

I'll never forget that.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister describe some of the major elements of this new agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am looking for the agreement, but I didn't see it right away. It does consist of a closer working relationship and arriving at a decision. Some of our communities are concerned about tourists having too much freedom to go anywhere they want. We are also looking at how we can generate more revenue for the communities. With that, we signed an agreement so that we can have a closer working relationship and to see what additional benefits the people of Nunavut can derive from cruise ships that arrive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Akoak.

Mr. Akoak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his minister's statement he also indicated that he will be appointing a new steering committee to "...work with the department to shape the priorities and pillars of the next tourism strategy." Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is important for this body to include community representation. In Gjoa Haven a number of my constituents have been active with the Franklin Interim Advisory Committee. Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to appointing at least one resident of Gjoa Haven to his department's new steering committee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akeeagok.

Hon. David Akeeagok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, you are correct that there is going to be a steering committee and they will be

doing a review. There are going to be community representatives, but I can't tell you whether or not an individual will be coming from your community. There were over 120 recommendations and work has begun on those recommendations. At the moment I don't have the names of the steering committee members. If they are given to me, yes, I will do a full review and see which communities the representatives will be coming from. That will be one of the responsibilities of this steering committee when they start their review on tourism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The time for question period has expired. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

Motion 036 – 5(2): Extension of Question Period

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 39(7), I move, seconded by the Member for Gjoa Haven, that the time allotted for oral questions be extended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order and is not subject to debate. All those in favour, please raise your hand. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Question period has been extended for a further half hour, but before we proceed further with question period, we will now take a 15-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:30 and resumed at 15:49

Speaker (interpretation): Let's proceed

with Item 6 in the *Orders of the Day*. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

Question 485 – 5(2): Undersea Fibre Optic Cable Project

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

As the minister will recall, the Legislative Assembly approved funding in the department's 2019-2020 capital estimates for a major undersea fibre optic cable project. When the Legislative Assembly considered this project, the minister indicated that his department would be submitting a proposal under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan in order to have 75 percent of the project's cost covered by the federal government. Can the minister confirm whether or not the federal government has agreed to provide this funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, I could confirm that we have sent another request for this funding and it's currently being reviewed by the Treasury Board in Ottawa and we anticipate a response by the end of the month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year the Nunavut Impact Review Board submitted its screening decision report to the responsible federal minister. In its report the Nunavut Impact Review Board indicated that “The submarine cable is proposed to be installed from Nuuk to Iqaluit, Kimmirut and Cape Dorset, and a second cable from Sanikiluaq to Nunavik.” In March of this year the federal minister issued his decision and indicated that the proponent “may carry out the project.” Can the minister confirm what additional regulatory approvals, if any, will be required from relevant authorities in Northern Quebec in relation to the Sanikiluaq to Nunavik portion of the link? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to be corrected, but I believe that there are no more regulatory approvals required. If I am wrong, I will clear it up and notify my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Rumbolt.

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In its screening decision report, the Nunavut Impact Review Board also indicated that “...the project would enhance communication linkages for Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Cape Dorset and Sanikiluaq, potentially lowering costs for residents and allowing access to high-speed data and telecommunications.” Can the minister provide an updated timeline for when the project is anticipated to be started and completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Mr. Speaker, as I stated, the proposal is before the Treasury Board at this time. Once that is approved, we will be able to start coming forward with more detailed information, and I believe we will be coming forward to this House during the fall session. Let’s get the approvals done first and once we have that, I will have a lot more detail in terms of timelines and schedules to share with my colleagues on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Amittuq, Member Kaernerck.

Question 486 – 5(2): Mould Management Plan

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my member’s statement, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

(interpretation ends) As the minister will recall, I have raised the issue of mould in public housing units on many occasions. The Nunavut Housing Corporation recently published a notice indicating that the release of its request for proposals for a new mould remediation plan has been delayed. Can the minister explain the reason for this delay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation takes concerns regarding mould very seriously to our public housing units. As for the question why the delay on that particular subject he's discussing, I haven't heard any information on that, so I would like to know where he's getting that information from. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The housing corporation issued a news release on May 10, 2019. I just got it from that notice. It was announced on May 10, 2019. It was on the website and maybe he can respond now on the reason for the delay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't heard of a delay from the housing corporation, but I would like to remind my colleague that when he informed me about the mould problem in Hall Beach and as soon as I hear of them, I pass it on to my officials, and I appreciate them informing us of mould in our housing units. As soon as I hear about it, I tell my officials to start working on it. I can say that there are two people right now inspecting the mould problem in Hall Beach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Kaernerck.

Mr. Kaernerck (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm pleased that they are dealing with this problem and I'm happy you began dealing with it right away.

A number of my constituents recently spoke publicly about the poor condition of their homes, including mould problems. Can the minister update me on what training and resources have been provided to the local housing organizations in Hall Beach and Igloolik to help them assess and remediate mould infestation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for asking that question. Mr. Speaker, we have visited the 25 communities in Nunavut and the regional districts in Arviat for the Kivalliq, Cape Dorset for the Baffin, and Cambridge Bay for the Kitikmeot. We have worked with the housing authorities and have provided training to our staff on mould remediation. We haven't set aside anything for that. We would like to hear as soon as mould is discovered and work with tenants. Only that way can we lessen that mould problem in our housing. I thank him for informing me of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Member Kamingoak.

Question 487 – 5(2): Medevac Services

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I was made aware of a situation where an individual had suffered a traumatic accident and had to wait incredibly long for a medevac plane to arrive. Can the minister clearly describe how his department ensures that medevac services are made available in a timely manner? *Koana*, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our medical emergency transport contract has very clear stipulations on availability of aircraft. Again, I have said it many times, if there is a specific case that a member wants me to look into, I am more than happy to meet outside of this House where we can talk with a little bit more openness about the specifics of a case. If the member wants to talk to me after the sitting today, I would be more than happy to discuss or look into the specifics of this case.

With generalities, our contracts are very clear that aircrafts are to be available and even backup aircraft available. That being said, there can be occurrences where mechanical issues or high need going on at the same time that there can be some delays, but we work very closely with our contractors to make sure that those occur infrequently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Kamingoak.

Ms. Kamingoak: *Koana*, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate that various different circumstances may affect whether a medevac plane is available at any given

time. There may be another medical emergency in another community, or perhaps there has been a mechanical issue with the plane.

Can the minister clarify whether his department reviews the provision of medevac services on a regular basis and what steps are taken to improve the delivery of those services when it is determined that standards have not been met? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health regularly meets with our contract provider to ensure follow-up and a contract application and any resolution of issues immediately through phone calls or correspondence. There are monthly rounds with the health clinical staff and quarterly face-to-face meetings, which just happened. Three days ago was the last one. Again, if the member has some specific concerns, I would be more than happy to discuss them with her to make sure that that's part of the ongoing discussion with our contractor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Niaqunngu, Member Angnakak.

Question 488 – 5(2): Relief Employees

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I don't expect that the issue I'm going to raise today will be resolved with just three questions, but I'm hoping to get a firm commitment from the

minister to at least take a serious look at the issue.

As the minister is aware, the *Public Service Act* and the *Public Service Regulations* establish a number of different categories of employment, including casual employment and relief employment.

A number of constituents have described situations to me where relief employees are effectively working on an indeterminate basis as they have been in the same job for months or even years. Relief workers, I think, its numbers are pretty high; about 1,400 relief workers that work for the Government of Nunavut.

However, under the *Public Service Regulations*, relief workers are not entitled to a number of benefits, including sick leave accumulation, medical leave travel, or special leave. My first question for the minister is this: can he clearly explain why relief employees should not be entitled to these types of benefits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Human Resources, Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate my colleague for the question. I don't have the level of detail as to why they are not eligible to receive the benefits my colleague is talking about, but I could most definitely look into it and have a response at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for agreeing and committing to coming back with that information.

Mr. Speaker, section 902 of the government's *Human Resources Manual* addresses the different types of employment. However, this section of the manual, which by the way has not been updated for over a decade, does not clearly address relief employment. Will the minister commit to reviewing this section of the manual and the relevant sections of the *Public Service Regulations* as part of his new department's mandate to improve our government's human resources policies and practices? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague for the question. Most definitely. Our department, as we are aware in this House, has taken over. It's a whole new department in such a short time. I would like to first of all commend the staff we do have. They are taking on an enormous task and things are going very well.

One of the things we are doing is taking a look at all these different policies and procedures to make sure that they are current and up to date. That is one area that we are and will be continuing to take a good look at and see if where and how some policies and procedures need to be updated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Angnakak.

Ms. Angnakak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Employees Union recently announced that it is “disappointed” with the government’s “...refusal to engage with other important [Union] demands, such as our proposal on Domestic Violence Leave and proposals to reduce the vulnerability of relief workers.” My question for the minister is this: when it comes to the government’s position on these types of issues, who makes the final decision? Is it the Minister of Human Resources or is it the Minister of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kusugak.

Hon. Lorne Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I find the answer to that, I will most definitely get back to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North-Chesterfield Inlet, Member Towntongie.

Question 489 – 5(2): Country Food at Embassy West

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health.

I would like to know: in the policies of the Embassy West, what kind of policy do they have on country food? Are Inuit allowed to get country food or do they follow Health Canada policies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickey.

Hon. George Hickey: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any contractor that we have outside the territory has to follow the rules of that jurisdiction. Embassy West, being in Ontario, would follow those rules. That being said, Embassy West has worked very hard with us and country food, from my last tour down there, was available pretty much daily. Now, it is limited in what types. When you’re dealing with people with severe dementia, sometimes there’s an issue with swallowing, so there are blended foods and things like that. It’s not always *quaq* that we can just eat like that. Some people are unable to eat that and different levels of need, but country food is made quite readily available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Towntongie.

Ms. Towntongie (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Rankin Inlet I was notified that there was someone’s aunt staying at the Embassy West in Ottawa, where she had sent country food to the resident, but the aunt never got the food. The food was thrown in the garbage. That person sent country food more than once.

Can the minister work with the people in Ottawa to change the policy? Our elders, who have to be there, are yearning for Inuit food. It is very important and they should be made available. Even though they have dementia, their body can recognize their food. They have to be able to eat their traditional food.

Can the minister provide me a letter about policies on country food and what it states in the contract about country

food? I would like to see a copy of that, please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Arviat North-Whale Cove, Member Main.

Question 490 – 5(2): Income Assistance Appeal Process

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to direct my question to the Minister of Family Services regarding income support.

There were around 15,000 Nunavummiut who received income support in 2017, of which there were over a thousand in Arviat. Whenever they get refused or denied income support... (interpretation ends) When social assistance recipients are denied their monthly payment by the income assistance worker... Sorry, income assistance is the proper term. There is, I believe, an appeal process in place that's in the legislation. I have heard disturbing stories that seem to indicate that this appeal process is not actually functioning.

My first question for the minister is: how do income assistance recipients appeal an income assistance worker's decision? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question. I'm sorry to say I can't remember the actual appeal, but I can tell you that since the reform and my briefings, the appeal process actually declined. If there's an actual case you're aware of, I would like to know about it. I have not heard of any appeals coming out of Arviat. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) It's a fairly general question. I'm asking the minister to explain the appeal process to me. Pretend I'm an income assistance recipient. Walk me through the appeal process. How many pieces of paper are involved? How long will my appeal take? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik

(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I will come back to the question. As I stated, because it has decreased, it has not been a priority in the briefings that I have. There's nothing that indicates about the appeal process in my current briefings because it has decreased, but I could certainly provide that. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I thank the minister for committing to get back to me. I'm going to ask for a few other commitments on the minister's part. Can the minister please commit to providing the number of appeals submitted, the average timeline for each, and can the minister also commit to putting some kind of information on the department's website as to the rights to an appeal that I believe clients have?

To quote from the department's website, this is from their Frequently Asked Questions section. This is the only thing I could find on the website regarding appeals to income assistance. This is from the Frequently Asked Questions, Question: "I do not agree with my Community Income Assistance Worker's assessment. What can I do?" Answer: "You can appeal your Community Income Assistance Worker's decision to the local appeal committee. Your [Community] Income Assistance Worker can assist you." There's no link to any forms, to any further information beyond that, so I think that is something that needs to be added to.

In terms of those commitments for additional information regarding the appeal process, the average timeline, and updating and adding to the department's website, I would appreciate the minister's commitment. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Sheutiapik.

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) If there's an issue with income assistance, that

would be provided right on the spot on how to go through the appeal process; the timelines. Maybe that's why it's not on the website because it's a given, but I will certainly provide that as well. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Aggu, Member Quassa.

Question 491 – 5(2): Issues with Elder Care

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for recognizing me again under this item. My question will be for the Minister of Health.

When we were first elected as MLAs, one of our priorities was to support our elders because they are an important part of our lives and they should remain in Nunavut. We all agreed to that principle. I believe MLAs on this side had expectations about future facilities that would be prepared for the purpose of keeping our beloved elders within Nunavut.

We just recently heard on the news, though this facility isn't in our community, that there was an elders facility providing assistive care for elders in Baker Lake. That facility, called the Martha Talirug Centre, caught my attention because it is no longer usable and it will close. That is what I heard.

However, we were previously informed when we approved appropriations for this facility to renovate the building that the funding was to repair the flooring of the facility. What happened to the funds

we approved since the facility will now be closed?

Further, what about the employees who worked there? They had a salary and were provided with the proper training using funds from the Nunavut government. What happens to these funds now that the employees are no longer working? In retrospect it seems that they received this training for nothing, although they were trained to assist our elders. For the elders, I would like to know what is happening on that front from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health, Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off I'll discuss the renovation amount. There was previously \$700,000 that was approved to renovate that building. There have been a number of occurrences, including a fuel spill, but when we look at the scope of work that would need to be done to bring that building up to current care facility codes, that amount is extremely not enough. That being said, the facility that's there right now, with the current standards for long-term care, the facility is not able to be used with the current code conditions.

With regard to the staff and the training, whenever we have a facility that may not be utilized for one purpose, we look very diligently at alternative uses that can be utilized. As it is an owned building, Community of Government Services owns that building in Baker Lake, and with our new Elder Care Strategy that we've got, we want to make sure that existing infrastructure across the

territory that we are very lacking of gets utilized to its maximum benefit.

Hopefully that is something that can be utilized that we would be able to take advantage of the existing training of the people in Baker Lake that would be able to lead to other employment opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary question, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, we are working hard for our elders everywhere, not just in Baker Lake. We have heard of other issues in communities that want elder care facilities and are planning such things. We have heard this issue more than once. Are you making this a priority? We have said at the table here that this is a priority and I am wondering whether you are looking for other options. That's my question to the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kusugak...Minister Hickes, sorry.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. George Hickes: I thought I got fired in the last 30 seconds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, to know that I am still employed.

Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of investments of looking at the senior long-term care facilities across the territory. It was up for discussion as recently as our last budget. We have allocated quite a number of assets and resources to make sure that as we look at our long-term strategy for elder care across the territory, we are looking long

term.

There have been too many instances where we have made knee-jerk or band-aid solutions. We need to make a long-term solution. What that is going to entail is what we are looking at; regional facilities that are larger in nature than what we've got right now. We are going to have to seriously take a look, like in Baker Lake, at existing facilities where we do have elder care on what potential repurposing, if necessary, for those facilities, with the focus on staff.

The member brought up a very good point in his first supplementary. We have people who are trained and have taken education opportunities to make sure that they are able to provide care. We want to make sure that we don't lose that resource. When it comes time to full rollout, it is going to be a very major investment that we're going to have to make some very serious decisions in this House on moving these priorities forward.

I can assure the member that elder care across the territory has been a very strong priority across this government and it is very clearly in our mandate that we all developed in Pond Inlet almost two years ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Your second and final supplementary question, Member Quassa.

Mr. Quassa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank you for the response. We all want this kind of positive response as members. We see this as a priority and we would like to

see and follow things through. I'm sure that that's what we will do.

Lastly, in terms of the former staff that were trained, what can the minister tell them? Are those employees no longer employed, even though they received training? What can the minister tell these former staff who were trained? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Hickes.

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't answer the question on the current employment of the former staff from the Martha Talirug Centre. It was a society that ran that and operated it. Whether they took other endeavours or other employment opportunities with that society or outside of it, I don't know. I don't have that information, Mr. Speaker. They were not employees of the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The time for question period has expired. Let us proceed with the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 032 – 5(2): FASD in the Education System

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister of Education previously indicated, there are many children in our education system who are suffering from unconfirmed fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

Mr. Speaker, I am worried that these children are not receiving the support

that they need to succeed. Early intervention is crucial for those living with FASD. We must assist them to learn to live with their disability before it's too late.

It's imperative that the Department of Education is FASD informed in order to make the appropriate decisions. From the minister's office down to school administration, all involved must understand FASD and how to provide the required support for cognitive problems and behavioural challenges.

FASD is the leading underlying cause of developmental delay and learning disability in North America, yet we have not been providing comprehensive support and accommodated learning approaches for these individuals.

Very often because this disability is considered invisible, the signs of brain-based differences are misperceived and punished as challenging behaviour rather than the students' needs and strengths being identified and supported.

Mr. Speaker, in order to ensure that this government is moving towards addressing the needs of children with FASD, I would like to enquire about the current practices in place as well as the future strategy.

Mr. Speaker, my questions are detailed and I ask that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

1. Have the Minister of Education and senior personnel of the Department of Education become informed in the needs of students with FASD?
2. Does the Department of Education

consider the issue of FASD in our education system a priority matter?

3. How many students currently have confirmed FASD?
4. How many additional students have been confirmed with FASD over each of the last three fiscal years?
5. What current supports are in place for students with FASD?
6. Are the current supports for students with FASD adequate to meet their needs?
7. Does the Department of Education intend on increasing supports for students with FASD?
8. Does the Department of Education provide training to teachers on how to identify suspected undiagnosed students with FASD?
 - a. If so, how often is the training provided?
 - b. Does the Department of Education intend on expanding this training?
9. Does the Department of Education provide training to student support assistants on how to identify suspected FASD?
 - a. If so, how often is the training provided?
 - b. Does the Department of Education intend on expanding this training?
 - c. Does the Department of Education intend on identifying FASD leads at each school to ensure FASD best practices are adhered to when signs of FASD are raised for suspected FASD or

- confirmed FASD in students at each school in Nunavut? (This would most likely be the SST)
10. Does the Department of Education provide training to teachers on how to provide educative assistance for students with FASD?
- If so, how often is the training provided?
 - Does the Department of Education intend on expanding this training?
11. Does the Department of Education provide training to student support assistants on how to provide educative assistance to students with FASD?
- If so, how often is the training provided?
 - Does the Department of Education intend on expanding this training?
12. Has the department considered incorporating an FASD screening process?
13. Has the Department of Education begun the development of a comprehensive strategy on how to address the needs of students with confirmed and unconfirmed FASD?
14. The federal government, in association with Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, has created the Child First Initiative that ensures Inuit children have access to the essential government-funded health, social and educational products, services, and supports they need when they need them. Some examples of what could be funded include:

- tutoring services;
- educational assistants;
- specialized school transportation;
- psycho-educational assessments; and
- assistive technologies and electronics

A request for a group of children with similar needs from multiple families or guardians can be submitted by a community or a service provider.

Has the Department of Education submitted a request for funding to assist Inuit children living with FASD to provide comprehensive support and accommodated learning approaches for these students?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking that his written question be entered into the record as read. Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Member for Iqaluit-Manirajak, Member Lightstone.

Written Question 033 – 5(2): Ensuring Nunavut’s Future Professionals are FASD Informed

Mr. Lightstone: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My next question is for the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College.

As I previously stated, it is clear that FASD is affecting many Nunavummiut, and I'm concerned that the Government of Nunavut's frontline workers may not be properly informed on the impacts of FASD. I would like to enquire whether Nunavut Arctic College is ensuring Nunavut's future professionals are FASD informed.

My questions are detailed and I request that they be entered into the *Hansard* as read.

I would like to enquire if Nunavut Arctic College has:

1. Had to accommodate for the needs of learners who have confirmed FASD; and
2. If educators have received training on how to accommodate varying learning needs for students with confirmed or suspected FASD

The mission of Nunavut Arctic College states that it is committed to "delivering high quality adult education programs developed with input from our partners throughout the Arctic and Canada..."

3. Has Nunavut Arctic College sought input from partners throughout the Arctic and Canada on the implications of FASD?

Considering many frontline workers may not be properly informed on the impacts of FASD, I would like to know if Nunavut Arctic College is incorporating the implications of FASD into course syllabus of the following programs and, if so, to what extent:

- a. Nunavut Teacher Education Bachelor of Education

- b. Early Childhood Education Diploma
- c. Arctic Nursing Bachelor of Science
- d. Social Worker Diploma
- e. If FASD has not been incorporated into the syllabus, when will this be done?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking that his written question be entered into the record as read. Members, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): There is agreement. The written question will be entered into the record as read.

Written Questions. Let's go to the orders of the day. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. (interpretation ends) Petitions. Item 11. Responses to Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Acting Minister of Justice, Minister Akeegok.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 165 – 5(2): 2017 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report

Tabled Document 166 – 5(2): 2018 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report

Hon. David Akeegok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am tabling two documents as Acting Minister of Justice, the (interpretation ends) 2017 Minimum Wage Rate

Annual Report *ammalu* the 2018 Minimum Wage Rate Annual Report. (interpretation) These are the two documents that I am tabling, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Acting Minister of Justice. I'm sorry. Tabling of Documents. Premier Savikataaq.

Tabled Document 167 – 5(2): 2019-2020 Letter of Expectation for Executive Council of Nunavut

Hon. Joe Savikataaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling the response letter regarding the 2019-2020 Letter of Expectation for the Executive Council of Nunavut. This is just to remind members that we as cabinet have an open-door policy, and they can come and talk to any minister or myself about any issues or perceived issues they have with any one of us on cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. (interpretation) Member for Hudson Bay, Member Rumbolt.

Tabled Document 168 – 5(2): Letter from Minister Responsible for Nunavut Arctic College

Mr. Rumbolt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year a number of my colleagues shared a concern brought to them by the adult educators in their communities regarding what was understood to be a Nunavut Arctic College policy or directive forbidding them from communicating directly with elected officials or inviting them to community learning centres.

I am very pleased that the minister has written this letter stating that no such policy or directive is in place.

>> *Applause*

I encourage my colleagues to share this letter with the faculty and staff in the community learning centres and Nunavut Arctic College campuses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 15. (interpretation) Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 16. (interpretation) Motions. (interpretation ends) Item 17. (interpretation) First Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 18. (interpretation) Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 24 – Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019 – Second Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 24, *Write-off of Debts Act, 2018-2019*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker and members, this bill authorizes the write-off of debts in accordance with sections 24 and 82 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order.

An Hon. Member: Question.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 24 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Hickes.

Bill 26 – An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – Second Reading

Hon. George Hickes: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Arviat South, that Bill 26, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker and members, this bill increases the cost of living tax credit and the basic personal amount for individuals, and decreases the corporate tax rate for small businesses in order to mitigate the impact of the federal carbon tax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Member Main.

Mr. Main (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to question the principle of this bill as described in the summary here. I'm concerned, Mr. Speaker. It says that the purpose of this bill is to "decrease the corporate tax rate for small businesses in order to mitigate the impact of the federal carbon tax."

Mr. Speaker, this is just another example of the costs that the federal government is putting on the shoulders of our government. We have to eat the cost because this federal government is shoving this carbon tax down our throat.

I'm concerned that we are bearing additional expense and we are going to lose out on revenue because we don't want our small businesses to suffer.

I would just like maybe a clarification. Will this proposed bill fully mitigate the impact of the carbon tax or is it something where it's like a half-mitigation, similar to the carbon rebate program announced yesterday? Just on the summary of the bill. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Questions can't be asked to the motion. I'm just indicating that.

The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 26 has been referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Second Reading of Bills. Minister of Family Services, Minister Sheutiapik.

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act – Second Reading

Hon. Elisapee Sheutiapik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens Benefits Act*, be read for the second time. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 27 is referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation.

Following our orders of the day, Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. There being none, we will proceed with the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. There being none. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. There being none. Item 22. *Orders of the Day*. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *Orders of the Day* for May 31:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Responses to Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees on Bills and Other Matters
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Before our meeting adjourns for the day, I would like to note that I am very pleased to take this opportunity to announce that this year's investiture ceremony for the Order of Nunavut will take place next week on Tuesday, June 4, at 6 p.m. Eastern Time. If you didn't get that, it's at (interpretation ends) 6 p.m., June 4, Eastern Time. The ceremony will be televised and live-streamed across the territory, and I invite all Nunavummiut to join us as we honour this year's recipient, Zacharias Kunuk.

This House stands adjourned until Friday, May 31, at 9 a.m.

(interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:39*

